

'The Auk' goes to press. Promptness of publication is important and there is no time for the necessary correspondence to complete the records. In the case of Associates the editor seldom learns of deaths until the list of members for the next year is submitted for publication.

The best plan that suggests itself for keeping an accurate record of deceased members, and ensuring proper obituary notices, would be to appoint some competent member of the Union, such as Dr. Palmer, as a permanent committee on History and Biography, a suggestion which is hereby respectfully offered to the president and council. ED.]

### Time of Incubation.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

The writer is gathering data on the length of the incubation in various bird species. He would like to ask if any of the readers of 'The Auk' could help him in this quest. Knowledge of the exact time would be preferred but an approximate might help. He has already collected a considerable mass of information on this subject, but wishes more, especially concerning the lower and lowest forms of bird life. Any expense in this matter would be gladly defrayed by the writer.

Yours cordially,

W. H. BERGTOLD.

1159 Race St., Denver, Colo.,  
November 26, 1914.

### Proposed Revision of the By-Laws of the American Ornithologists' Union.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

I wish to address all working ornithologists and oölogists in the United States and Canada,—through the columns of 'The Auk,' 'Condor,' and 'Wilson Bulletin.' For a number of years, there have been many of the working ornithologists and oölogists who have not been satisfied with the present by-laws of the American Ornithologists' Union. This dissatisfaction has been shared alike by "Fellows," "Members" and "Associates" of the Union. We have seen in a mild form from time to time this dissatisfaction expressed in the columns of 'The Auk,' only to be side-tracked and dropped with but small notice and courtesy.

I have just received the annual circular letter from the A. O. U., stating my dues for the ensuing year are now due, and asking for new members, etc., etc. Each year as I look over this communication I ask myself, "Shall I continue in the A. O. U., and what can I offer a new member as an inducement to have him join the "Union?" Carefully looking through the pages of the by-laws I can find no inducement to offer him, nor do I see any